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Padua Franciscan High School

Press Release

Padua Franciscan High School Announces \$4.5 Million Capital Campaign

PARMA, Ohio – (April 24, 2017) The Padua Franciscan High School administration and Board of Trustees publicly announced the \$4.5 million PaduaPlus+ Campaign on Saturday, April 22, 2017. The campaign, which quietly began in 2014, will help us build on our Franciscan tradition of educational excellence.

The campaign will support our efforts to restore, renew, innovate, and grow in the following areas:

Restore

- \$2.5 million goal for improved student services and security

Renew

- \$500,000 goal for replacement of windows and locker rooms

Innovate

- \$1 million goal for redesign of science laboratories and renovation of all classrooms

Grow

- \$500,000 goal for student scholarships and tuition assistance

As of April 1, 2017, we have raised \$4 million.

RESTORE

In order to offer an increased level of safety and security, we must **renovate our main entrance and lobby**. The new, enlarged main entrance will add 3,000 square feet to the front of the school. An additional set of doors will provide enhanced security and traffic control. Outside, added sidewalks and bus lanes will address safety concerns. The first phase of construction on this project began in the spring of 2017. It is slated to be completed this fall.

The **northeast entrance, often referred to as the back entrance, will be expanded** by 1,300 square feet. The addition of a protective canopy and lobby area will keep hazardous snow, ice and water from being carried onto stairways and nearby floors.

In the Franciscan spirit of hospitality, both entrances will be more welcoming. They will also offer functionality by including lounge areas with seating, where students can socialize or study while awaiting transportation.

The **General Office will be renovated** to improve traffic flow for visitors and students.

The **Athletic Office will be expanded** to better meet the needs of student-athletes and their families.

The **Bruin Shop will be expanded** to include a fitting room, adequate storage, and an additional entrance that will allow guests to enter directly from the new lobby.

RENEW

We must ensure our building continues to meet the needs of our students, faculty, and staff, from the inside out. It was necessary to **replace the original windows throughout the school** with energy efficient, vinyl clad, double-pane windows and to install secure glass block on all lower-level windows.

Original lockers from 1961 have been replaced with 800 bright, **new lockers**.

With more than 500 students participating in athletics each year, renovating our locker rooms became important for current and prospective students. **Reconstruction of the Boys Locker Room** has been completed. The **Girls Locker Room** renovation will be underway soon.

Providing a comprehensive approach to student health and wellness is integral to the Padua experience. A donor approached us with the idea to convert a storage room into a space that could be used for both performing arts and physical education purposes, such as Dance Team practice, fitness classes and other activities. This project has been completed. A **Dance Studio** has been added on the lower-level of our school.

INNOVATE

Part of Padua's mission is to provide the environment and tools needed to foster intellectual curiosity, creative thinking, problem solving, and a thirst for lifelong learning. To support our students' academic experience, we must **renovate all of our classrooms**. This involves the addition of modern drop ceilings, new lighting, fresh paint, carpet tile flooring, and Smart Boards (whiteboards, projectors, etc.).

In an effort to support a strong science curriculum for all students and enhance our MedTrack® program, which helps students explore and prepare for careers in science and healthcare, we must **renovate two chemistry labs, one prep room, and two physics labs**. This involves the replacement of plumbing, ventilation, and lighting, plus the creation of new lab stations.

GROW

We must **provide competitive scholarships and tuition assistance** to continue to attract and retain talented students who will make an impact on our community and the world. Scholarships and tuition assistance help shape each class, creating an academically talented and socially diverse student body that enriches the Padua experience.

ABOUT OUR LEAD DONOR

The Fredecker Family Foundation has stepped forward as the lead donor in the PaduaPlus+ Campaign. Before he died, Richard Fredecker offered to replace some metal casement windows with energy efficient, vinyl clad, double-pane windows. This was the first of several gifts from the Fredecker Family Foundation, which is also supported by his children **David S. Fredecker '78** and Linda Fredecker Jackson. They have carried on their father's project, replacing all windows throughout the school, including lower-level windows with secure glass block.

In 2017, The Fredecker Family Foundation's generosity continued with a \$500,000 gift to renovate the main entrance and lobby. The first phase of construction on this project began in March 2017. It is slated to be completed in the fall of 2017. The Foundation's gifts, totaling close to \$1 million, represent the lead donation in the PaduaPlus+ Campaign. Fredecker '78 shared this reflection when asked why he and his family decided to make this major commitment to the campaign:

"Padua Franciscan High School has always been a Fredecker family passion! My dad always told me that he met his lifelong friends at Padua when he started Bingo here in 1969. My brother **Rick '71** and I have great memories of our days at Padua. My mother and father started the process of giving back to Padua before they died in 2008 and 2014. My sisters, Karen Fredecker Bearns and Linda Fredecker Jackson, along with Rick and I, felt a gift from the Fredecker Family Foundation, in honor of our parents Richard and Catherine would be a fitting tribute. My renewed involvement at Padua the last five years has been very rewarding and enjoyable and has taken me back in time 40 years! This has been made possible by all the wonderful people at Padua with whom I have developed great relationships."

For further information, contact Director of Communication Rachel DeGirolamo at 440.845.2444 ext. 112 or at rdegirolamo@PaduaFranciscan.com.

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School Background: Padua Franciscan High School is located at 6740 State Road in Parma, Ohio. Padua is a college-preparatory, co-educational school with 755 students. Padua was founded by Franciscans in 1961 and bases its educational philosophy on the life and spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi. The school's mission is to develop the unique talents of each student, while giving them the skills they need to succeed in college and beyond.